(a) the details of the Undertakings and Corporations under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture;

(b) the details of their earnings and losses during the last three years;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to make them profitable;

(d) if so, whether they have borne fruit; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) India Tourism Development Corporation is the only Public Sector Undertaking under the control of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

(b) The details are given as under:

Year	Turnover	Profit / loss Before tax (Rs. in lakhs)
1999-2000	288.50	(-)24.03
2000-2001	305.60	(-)33.62
2001-2002	223.26	(-)59.48

(c) to (e) Various steps such as aggressive marketing efforts including promotional schemes, tie- up with Airlines, State Governments, appointment of reservation consolidators, restructuring of corporate and marketing set up, opening up of new Duty Free Shops at Custom Airports and improving the existing shops, etc. have been initiated to improve the profitability of the Corporation. These steps are likely to show positive results during the current financial year.

Suggestions of World Tour and Tourism Council

†5091. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestions from the World Tour and Tourism Council to improve the basic facilities for promoting tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have taken any action on these suggestions so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) has suggested upgradation of basic tourist facilties, which include, among others, safe and hygienic environment, better roads, adequate means transport, accommodation priced at every level, tourist coaches, food outlets, information kiosks, better signage and improvement of aesthetics around tourist sites.

(c) and (d) The National Tourism Policy-2002 envisages creation of world class infrastructure to make tourism more attractive. The Department of Tourism Government of India provides financial assistance to the State Government / Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development including upgradation and expansion of tourist facilities, health centres, wayside amenities, public conveniences, reception centres, yatri niwas, signage etc. During the Ninth Plan period an amount of Rs. 180.45 crores has been spent for the development of tourism infrastructure in the country.

Promotion of regional tourism

5092. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for promoting regional tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether such a proposal will be considered and implemented soon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) In order to develop and promote regional tourism in the country the Department of Tourism, Government of India proposes to identify six travel circuits in the country on annual basis and develop them to international standards.